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DIGEST HUNTING AND TRAPPING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The ownership of wildlife within Illinois is held by the state in trust for all the people. Laws and regulations governing how wildlife may be hunted or trapped are necessary to insure that no one takes more than his share and that enough breeding stock will be left each spring to replenish what man and the forces of nature have harvested the preceding year.

This brochure is a guide to the more permanent laws and regulations. Please remember that it is only a guide. More complete information is available from Department of Conservation offices or from Law Enforcement Division personnel. A list of offices where you may obtain information is listed in this brochure. Please remember that regulations on Department managed public hunting lands may be more restrictive. Be sure to check with the area manager to determine what regulations prevail at the area where you want to hunt.

Hunting season dates and bag and possession limits are not stated because they change annually. Your local newspaper, radio or TV station receives this information for public distribution. Department of Conservation offices have hunting season information. "Outdoor highlights", a Department of Conservation periodical, also carries hunting season information. You may obtain Outdoor Highlights by completing the subscription blank included in this brochure.

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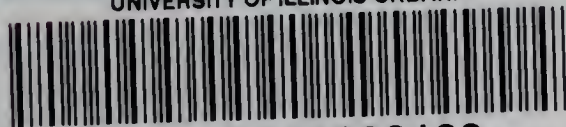
JUN 5 1978

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS



**Illinois
Department of
Conservation**
life and land together

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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INDEX

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hunting License | 10. Deer Hunting Laws |
| 2. Firearms Owners' I.D. Card | 11. Wild Turkey Hunting Laws |
| 3. "Duck" Stamps | 12. Migratory Game Bird Laws |
| 4. Parental Permission | 13. Fur-bearing Animal
Hunting and Trapping Laws |
| 5. Hunter Safety Training | 14. Falconry Laws |
| 6. Resident Game | 15. Field Trial and
Dog Training Area Laws |
| 7. Migratory Game | |
| 8. Landowner Permission | |
| 9. General Laws | |

1. Most Illinois sportsmen must have a current hunting license in their possession when afield. **Exceptions to this rule are:** 1) *An owner or bonafide tenant of farm land and their children actually living on the land where they hunt;* 2) *an Illinois resident on ordinary leave from the U.S. Armed Forces;* 3) *a hunter 65 years of age or older;* 4) *a physically disabled hunter. A physically disabled person is one who has a permanent impairment, disease or loss, except blindness, that substantially impairs his ability to perform labor or engage in a useful occupation.*

2. **Anyone who has a firearm in his possession,** whether he owns it or not, must have a valid Firearms Owner's Identification Card, unless: 1) He is an out-of-state sportsman hunting in Illinois; 2) he is a minor accompanied by a parent, guardian or any adult who has a valid card in his possession.

3. **Hunters 16 years of age or older** must have a current Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp (Duck Stamp) and an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp in their possession when hunting ducks and/or geese. Hunters 65 years of age or older and disabled hunters do not need a state

HUNTERS: KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING! Get **OUTDOOR HIGHLIGHTS** now. It's packed with up-to-date information that you'll need. Know season dates, times and bag limits as soon as they are available. All hunting permit applications will be included. Also fishing reports, camping conditions and other conservation and outdoor recreation news. **OUTDOOR HIGHLIGHTS** will come to you 36 times a year — weekly April through September; twice a month for the winter sportsman. Don't be without it!

Please send check or money order only. Make payable to: Illinois Department of Conservation. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

County _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

SUBSCRIPTION RATE (Please Check One)

☐ 1 year—\$4.00 ☐ 2 years—\$7.50 ☐ 3 years—\$10.50

Send Coupon and check to: Illinois Department of Conservation, Information/Education, Dept. NL, 605 Wm. G Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706.

duck stamp. However, they must have the Federal stamp.

4. **Sportsmen under 16 years of age** must present written permission of their parents or legal guardian before buying a hunting license.
5. **Sportsmen under 16 years of age** must prove they have completed the official hunter safety training course or must show a previous hunting license to the license vendor before the vendor can issue a new hunting license.
6. **Hunting Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits for Resident Game**—squirrels, rabbits, quail, Hungarian partridge, cock pheasant and deer—are set by the Department after annual population studies by wildlife biologists have been completed. Usually, hunting information is available before July 1.
7. **Hunting Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game**—mourning dove, snipe, woodcock, rail, ducks, geese and coots—are set by the Department within a framework provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Hunting season information for dove, snipe, woodcock, rail and for the September teal season is available by July 1. Information on the hunting season for ducks and geese is usually available by mid-September.
8. **You must obtain permission from the landowner before entering his land whether the land is posted or not.** Your conduct while hunting can influence your future enjoyment as well as the enjoyment of other sportsmen. This law applies whether the land is fenced, posted or not.

9. GENERAL LAWS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Take, or attempt to take, molest, or disturb any hawk, eagle or owl, at any time, except as provided by falconry regulations.
- ★ Carry or possess a firearm in any state refuge.
- ★ Use a snare or snare-like device to take birds or mammals.
- ★ Use a mechanical device or smoke or other gases to remove an animal from its den.
- ★ Use a ferret or other small mammal to drive an animal from its den or hiding place.
- ★ Use a recording or electronic calling device to attract furbearing mammals, wild game mammals or game birds between sunset and sunrise.
- ★ Use a spear or spear-like device to take game.
- ★ Use a poison, chemicals or explosives to take game.
- ★ Hunt by or near peat, grass, brush or other inflammable material while it is burning.
- ★ Hunt, disturb, harass or take any protected bird or mammal by the use or aid of an automobile,

vehicle or conveyance, any type of watercraft, aircraft or any machine propelled by mechanical power.

- ★ Use lights or lights from a vehicle or mechanically powered watercraft or have in your possession or under your control a light to shine on any protected species when you have a firearm or bow and arrow in your possession. **EXCEPT:** *That skunk, opossum, red or gray fox and raccoon may be taken during the open season by the use of a small hand operated light by a person who is not in any vehicle or watercraft propelled by mechanical power.*
- ★ Use a shotgun larger than 10 guage.
- ★ Hunt with or have in your possession while hunting, a shotgun shell with shot larger than size BB. **EXCEPT:** *White-tailed deer may be taken with a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge loaded with slugs or a muzzle loader of .38 caliber or larger.*
- ★ Take any species of wild game except deer with a shotgun loaded with slugs.
- ★ Carry a shotgun, rifle, handgun or airgun in or on any vehicle, conveyance, motorboat or aircraft unless the firearm or airgun is unloaded and in a case.
- ★ Carry a bow or bow and arrow device in a vehicle, conveyance, aircraft or motorboat unless it is unstrung or in a case.
- ★ Hunt with a shotgun capable of firing more than three consecutive shots that is not plugged to make it incapable of firing more than three shots.
- ★ Use a crossbow to take wild birds or mammals.
- ★ Use a rifle, handgun or airgun to take resident or migratory game birds or waterfowl.
- ★ Fire a rifle, handgun or airgun over or into water or ice.
- ★ Shoot a firearm along, on or across a public road, highway or right-of-way.
- ★ Use a firearm equipped with a silencer.
- ★ Hunt on another person's land or on waters standing or flowing over his land without first obtaining permission from the owner or tenant.
- ★ Hunt with a dog, a dog and gun or just a gun or bow and arrow within 200 yards of a residence without the owner's permission whether you are on his property or not.
- ★ Damage or destroy another person's property while hunting on his land.
- ★ Allow your dog to chase, harass or kill deer.
- ★ Hunt any wild game except furbearers between sunset and sunrise. **EXCEPT:** *deer may be hunted*

during the shotgun season from 6:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. local time. Bow hunting for deer is legal from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour before sunset. Ducks and geese, except geese in Union, Alexander, Jackson and Williamson counties, may be hunted starting at ½ hour before sunrise. Wild turkey may be hunted during the season starting ½ hour before sunrise.

- ★ Take game birds, migratory game birds, or waterfowl unless they are flying except when the bird is crippled and cannot be taken any other way.
- ★ Take any game bird with a snare, trap or deadfall or have any net or trap used for taking game birds in your possession.
- ★ Possess any freshly killed game when the season is closed.
- ★ Take wildlife and retain it alive.
- ★ Molest or destroy any nest, den, house or other animal cavity.
- ★ Hunt afield for any species during the firearm deer season when **not** wearing the blaze orange clothing required for deer hunting.

10. DEER HUNTING LAWS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Hunt deer with a firearm or bow at any time except the designated hunting season.
- ★ Hunt deer without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Conservation.
- ★ Hunt deer with any firearm except a shotgun of at least 20 gauge but not larger than 10 gauge with slugs or a muzzle loading rifle of .38 caliber or larger.
- ★ Hunt deer with a shotgun or muzzle loader when **not** wearing a cap or hat and a coat or vest with at least 400 square inches of blaze orange material.
- ★ Hunt any species except deer with a rifle during the gun deer season. Deer may be hunted with muzzle loading rifles of .38 caliber or larger.
- ★ Hunt deer during the gun season at any time except from 6:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. local time.
- ★ Hunt deer during the bow season at any time except from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour before sunset.
- ★ Carry any other firearm or handgun when hunting deer with a shotgun, muzzle loader or bow and arrow.
- ★ Use a dog, horse, automobile, aircraft or other vehicle to take deer with a firearm
- ★ Take deer by using salt or other kind of bait.
- ★ Possess or transport deer injured or killed on a highway or public right-of-way.

- ★ Kill more than one deer during the bow season or one deer during the gun season.
- ★ Participate with a firearm in a drive or assist while carrying a firearm other hunters to kill a deer after bagging your deer.
- ★ Fail to check your deer in the same day it was bagged when hunting during the firearm season.

11. WILD TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Hunt wild turkey without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Conservation.
- ★ Use anything but a shotgun to hunt turkey.
- ★ Use shot larger than No. 4.
- ★ Use a recording or electronic calling device to hunt turkey.
- ★ Have any sidearm or firearm other than a shotgun in your possession while hunting wild turkey.
- ★ Hunt wild turkey at any time except from ½ hour before sunrise until 12:00 Noon local time during the wild turkey season.
- ★ Use dogs, horses, automobiles, aircraft or other vehicles to hunt wild turkey.

12. MIGRATORY GAME BIRD LAWS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Hunt from a floating blind that is not anchored
EXCEPT: *a scull boat may be used on certain public waters and waterfowl may be taken from a boat not mechanically powered and not camouflaged or disguised.*
- ★ Operate a goose or duck hunting club without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Conservation.
- ★ Take or attempt to take migratory game birds, including waterfowl, over a baited area.
- ★ Use a recording or electronic calling device to hunt geese, ducks or other migratory birds, including crows.
- ★ Hunt waterfowl from a moving watercraft propelled by mechanical power or sails.

QUOTA ZONE ONLY (Union, Alexander, Jackson and Williamson Counties)

- ★ Hunt geese on a hunting club anywhere but from a blind or pit.
- ★ Build a blind or dig a pit closer than 200 yards from any other blind or pit on a hunting club when hunting geese.
- ★ Build or dig a blind or pit for goose hunting within 100 yards of the club property boundary. **EXCEPT:** *one pit or blind may be established on property where the minimum yardage cannot be met.*
- ★ Establish or use a blind or pit for goose hunting

within 200 yards of a refuge boundary or public right-of-way next to any State or Federal Refuge.

- ★ Hunt geese in Union, Alexander, Jackson and Williamson counties at any time during the hunting season except from sunrise to 3:00 P.M. local time.
- ★ Hunt geese with more than 3 hunters in one pit or blind. One person of the three may be a guide if he is licensed by the Department.

It is illegal to possess toxic (lead) shot while hunting waterfowl with a 12 gauge shotgun within 150 yards of water in Calhoun, Jersey, Henderson, Rock Island, Marshall or Putnam counties and on state or federally owned or managed waterfowl hunting areas anywhere in Illinois.

13. FURBEARING ANIMAL HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Take bobcat, badger or otter at any time.
- ★ Pursue furbearers with a dog or dogs during the 10 days before the furbearer season begins and the 10 days after the furbearer season ends.
- ★ Take beaver, muskrat, or mink except by trapping.
- ★ Trap or hunt furbearers on another person's property without his permission.
- ★ Remove or disturb furbearers caught in another person's traps without written permission to do so.
- ★ Trap without having a valid license in your possession. **EXCEPT:** *if you are a landowner or bona-fide tenant or a child of a landowner or tenant trapping on the property where you reside.*
- ★ Destroy or damage another person's property while hunting or trapping on his land.
- ★ Use or possess any tree climbing or cutting device when hunting.
- ★ Use or possess any digging device or spade when hunting or trapping furbearers.
- ★ Use a recording or electronic calling device when hunting furbearers between sunset and sunrise.
- ★ Possess green hides before the season begins or longer than 10 days after the season closes.
- ★ Use traps not marked with the owner's name and address.
- ★ Attempt to purchase a trapping license if you are under 16 years old without obtaining written permission from a parent or guardian.
- ★ Molest, or attempt to destroy or destroy any nest, den, house or other cavity.
- ★ Trap along or on a state highway or right-of-way.

14. FALCONRY LAWS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Take, import or possess hawks and owls except

peregrine falcons and barn owls without first obtaining a falconry permit. Peregrine falcons and barn owls cannot be taken from the wild.

- ★ Take any species by falconry means in violation of any other provisions of the Game Code and Administrative Orders.
- ★ Take or possess eagles under any circumstances.
- ★ Disregard provisions of the Administrative Order pertaining to falconry. **NOTE:** *There is limited interest in the sport of falconry. Regulations however are complicated and anyone thinking about becoming a falconer should read Administrative Order 73. A copy of the Order may be obtained from any Department office listed in this brochure.*

15. FIELD TRIAL AND DOG TRAINING LAWS

It is unlawful to:

- ★ Hold a field trial without first obtaining a license from the Department.
- ★ Use any firearm other than a pistol loaded with blank cartridges to train dogs during the time when hunting seasons are closed, **EXCEPT:** *on an authorized field trial or dog training area.*
- ★ Operate a dog training area without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Conservation.
- ★ Operate a dog training area without first obtaining a wild game breeder's permit.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION OFFICES

SPRINGFIELD OFFICES—

Division of Law Enforcement
100 E. Washington St.
Tel. 217/782-6431

Division of Wildlife Resources
100½ E. Washington St.
Tel. 217/782-6384

Division of Information & Education
603 Wm. G. Stratton Building
Tel. 217/782-7454

CHICAGO OFFICE—160 North LaSalle, Room 100
Tel. 312/793-2070

REGIONAL OFFICES—

Region I, P.O. Box 708
405 Emmons, Rock Falls, IL 61071
Tel. 815/625-2968

Region II, 110 James Road
Spring Grove, IL 60081
Tel. 815/675-2385

Region III, 8 Henson Place
Champaign, IL 61820
Tel. 217/356-9392

Region IV, 34 W. Broadway
Alton, IL 62002
Tel. 618/462-1181

Region V, P.O. Box D
Benton, IL 62812
Tel. 618/435-8138



**Illinois
Department of
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life and land together